



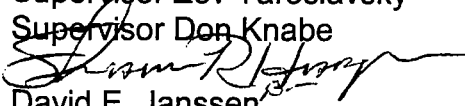
County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://cao.lacounty.gov>

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

October 24, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Office

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

**REPORT ON DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR THE SHARING AND MAXIMIZING OF
THE CAPPED TITLE IV-E WAIVER ALLOCATION**

On October 10, 2006, on the motion of Mayor Antonovich, your Board instructed the Chief Administrative Office to lead the effort in ensuring that all pending issues between the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation are addressed in order to develop a fiscally and programmatically sound local plan for the sharing and maximizing of the capped Title IV-E Waiver allocation; and to report every two weeks until this outcome has been achieved.

The Title IV-E Waiver provides opportunities for Probation and DCFS to coordinate two key issues: (1) coordination of youth programming to avoid or shorten the length of out-of-home placement; and (2) allocation of cost avoidance savings resulting from the Waiver funding cap. On October 16, 2006, my staff met with representatives from Probation and DCFS to discuss the Board motion and various related inquiries. Staff from all three departments also met on October 20, 2006 to further discuss Probation's participation in the development and refinement of the plan proposals.

Program Outcomes

The following action plan and time frame was developed to complete Los Angeles County Title IV-E Capped Allocation Demonstration Project Five Year Plan (Plan):

1. By October 25, 2006 incorporate DCFS top planned priorities into the Plan.

DCFS has identified six priority activities that they will focus on developing and implementing during the first year of the waiver. These activities include:

- Development of up-front assessment expertise for improved assessment of families where substance abuse, mental health and/or domestic violence are identified as core issues during the Department's initial emergency response investigations;
- Expansion of Family Preservation Services to be used as an after-care service;
- Expansion of Family Team Decision Making Conferences to be held quarterly throughout the time that a child/family is involved with DCFS;
- Expansion of Family Finding activities to locate and engage missing family members from the point of removal of a child from a parent's home;
- Development of community based placements to ensure that children who are removed from their parents are placed in their own neighborhoods and communities rather than across the county; and
- Development of visitation resources for parent/child visits to improve the frequency and quality of parent/child visits while family reunification services are being provided.

These six activities are currently included in the Plan and will be identified as the first priority activities for implementation.

2. By October 27, 2006 integrate Probation top priorities into the Plan.

Probation also has identified six priority activities that they will focus on developing and implementing during the first year of the waiver. These activities include:

- Expansion of Family Preservation Services to be used as an aftercare service for camp and placement youth;
- Expansion of Multi-Systemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy to be used as one of the Department's primary prevention strategies to further reduce the number of youth in out-of-home placement;
- Restructure Placement Services to help reduce the number of failed and repeat placements and the number of youth who return to placement within 90 days of returning home;
- Expansion of Family Finding Program to decrease the number of youth in long-term foster care and to reduce the length of stay for probation youth housed in group homes;
- Expansion of Start Taking Action Responsibly Today (START) Program to augment services to dependency youth who are at-risk of crossing into the delinquency system; and
- Expansion of Special Investigations Unit (SIU)/Dual Supervision to provide enhanced community-based services and treatment interventions.

These programs will be included in the Plan as the first priority activities for implementation.

3. By November 3, 2006 address external stakeholders' issues with the Plan.

The Association of Children Human Services Agencies (ACHSA) has expressed concerns about several areas of the current draft Plan. Both Departments are reviewing ACHSA's concerns and working to address them. Managers from both departments have met with ACHSA representatives and will continue to meet in the upcoming weeks.

4. By November 9, 2006 initiate the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DCFS and Probation.

Both departments will identify staff who will work together to initiate the development of a programmatically and fiscally sound MOU between DCFS and Probation.

5. By November 15, 2006 develop a plan for an inter-departmental oversight/steering committee for plan implementation.

As a result of the joint meetings among the three departments, a need for an inter-departmental oversight/steering committee for waiver plan implementation has been identified. DCFS and Probation are working with the Department of Mental Health and other county departments to identify the best strategy.

6. By December 2006 review Probation and DCFS administrative structures for overlap and redundancy on waiver related programs.

Both departments are seeking service delivery models that eliminate redundancies, and provide for attainment of waiver outcomes such as reduced out-of-home placement, increased involvement of families, caregivers, and communities in potential placement situations, and rapid identification of stable youth living arrangements that enhance opportunities for stable families and academic success. Probation and DCFS are preceding program-by-program on priority service designs. We anticipate reporting on these programs incrementally as they are addressed and their designs clarified.

Fiscal Outcomes

Probation and DCFS are also collaborating to identify the components of a framework for allocation of waiver funding. Final funding availability cannot be determined due to remaining uncertainties within the State funding allocation. The State presented counties that opted to participate in the Waiver with their proposed allocation methodology on October 20, 2006. Both departments will review and analyze the impact of the State funding allocation methodology and have further discussion with the State by the end of this week.

Strong collaborative support exists among the two departments to develop a fundamental funding framework that maximizes the potential to achieve waiver outcomes for youth. Probation will complete its analysis of the impact of the Deficit Reduction Act by October 27, 2006 for review by both DCFS and CAO staff.

It is anticipated that the eventual funding framework will result in waiver dollars being utilized to develop a comprehensive continuum of services to achieve positive outcomes of safety and permanency for both Probation and DCFS.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information, or your staff may contact Gevorg Simdjian at (213) 893-9736 or Lynn Cao at (213) 893-1216.

DEJ:SH:DL
RG:GS:yf

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Probation Officer
Director, Department of Children and Family Services

Plan.development.Probation.bm